Adulteration of Petro-Products

†*79. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that petrol and diesel are being adulterated in a big way in the country and senior officials and petrol pump owners are working in collusion towards it;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to this adulteration, instances of fire in vehicles are on the rise;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to check them; and

(d) the number of cases of adulteration which have come to light so far during the last three years with action taken thereon by Government?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) The possibility of adulteration of petrol/diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and various adulterants available in the market and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel. Government is not aware of any nexus of petrol pump owners and high officials of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in this regard.

(b) Oil Marketing Companies have reported that they do not have any reports regarding increase in incidents of fire in running vehicles due to adulteration.

(c) As per the provisions of the Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Regulation of Supply, Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) Order, 2005 any Gazetted Officer of the Central Government or a State Government or any Police Officer not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police, by general or special order of the Central Government or a State Government as the case may be, or any officer of the Oil Company not below the rank of Sales Officer has the power of search and seizure and to draw the sample to check whether density and other parameters of the product confirm to the requirements of Bureau of Indian Standard specifications. Government has requested the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to take steps to control adulteration by exercising power vested under the Control Order issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) also undertake regular and surprise inspection of Retail Outlets and take action for termination in established cases of adulteration under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG). In addition, the following measures are in place:

(i) Keeping in view the misuse/diversion of SKO for adulteration, the import of SKO by private parties has been canalized through OMCs.

(ii) OMCs have created a separate wing to overview and monitor all activities of curbing adulteration.

(iii) A pilot project, *viz.*, Jan Kerosene Pariyojna is operational in 414 blocks since 02.10.2005. The project is aimed at streamlining the PDS Kerosene distribution system and preventing diversion of kerosene.

In addition to above, in order to check adulteration, the Government has taken a number of additional initiavives *viz.*, Automation of Retail Outlets, Third party certification of Retail Outlets, Monitoring of movement of tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS), Use of Marker in Kerosene, Revision of MDG etc.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) The number of cases of suspected adulteration and number of Retail Outlets (ROs) terminated due to adulteration by OMCs during last three years are as under:

Year	Number of cases of suspected adulteration	Number of ROs Terminated due to adulteration
2004-05	225	19
2005-06	229	38
2006-07	187	79

Recovery of NPAs

*80. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recovery of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) has not shown any satisfactory progress over the years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total value of NPAs as on 31st March, 2006 and 31st March, 2007; the quantum of NPAs recovered during 2003-07 and how do these compare with each of the last years;

(d) the details of all such accounts against whom NPAs worth more than Rs. 10 crores and above are pending recovery; and

(e) the measures taken to streamline Loan Recovery Policy and to evolve innovative methods for recovery of bad loans?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The asset quality of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) has shown satisfactory improvement during the last few years wherein Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of these banks have reduced from 8.8% of Gross Advances as on March, 2003 to 2.7% of Gross Advance as on March, 2007.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Gross NPAs, and recoveries, including actual recoveries, recoveries through upgradation and compromise, and write-offs of NPAs of SCBs from March, 2003 to March, 2007 is indicated below:—

(Rs. In crore)

Caption	March 2003	March 2004	March 2005	March 2006	March 2007
Gross NPAs	68,717	64,785	59,373	51,816	50,552
Total recoveries in the year	23,183	28,004	26,940	29,087	27,176
% of recovery to Gross NPAs	33.74%	43.23%	45.37%	56.14%	53.76%

(d) The existing Management Information System of RBI does not generate data in the desired form. At present, RBI disseminates list of non-suit filed 'doubtful' and 'loss' borrowal accounts of Rs. 1 crore and above on half-yearly basis (*i.e.* as on 31st March and 30th September) to banks and Financial Institutions (FIs) for their confidential use. The list of non-suit filed accounts of wilful defaults of Rs.25 lac and above is also disseminated on quarterly basis to banks and FIs for their confidential use. Further, Credit Information Bureau (India) Limited is maintaining a database on suit-filed accounts of Rs. 1 Crore and above and non suit-filed